



## ASHEVILLE TRANSIT COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes

Public Works Building Room A109

October 14, 2009 4:30-6:30

#### Attending:

Commission Members: Josh O'Conner, Dave Erb, Hanna Raskin, Andrew Goldberg, Tom Tomlin, J. Neal Jackson

Staff: Mariate Echeverry, Edna Johnson, Janet GeorgeMurr,

Community members: Tom Herman of NCDOT, Paul Van Heden, Heather Strassberg of MPO, Natalie Murdock, of Land of Sky, Dave Hastings, Joy Bartlett, Betty Jackson.

4:30pm: Hanna opened the meeting.

Agenda Amendments: None

#### Explanation of Public Comment Standards and Opportunities:

- Hanna – welcomed the public and read the standards of procedures regarding public comment.

September 9, 2009 Minutes Review: Under "Get There Asheville" replace the word "candidates" with "commission members." Hanna moved to approve the minutes with the changes; Andrew second and all were in favor to approve minutes.

- Hanna announced Get There Asheville is hosting a forum on multi-modal transportation

#### Welcome Public – Introductions and Pre-Meeting Public Comment

- Hanna welcomed the public with an introduction of each member of Transit Commission, staff and public. At this time, Hanna asked the public for any pre-meeting comments and none was given.
- Introduction of the public:
  - Dave Hastings from CO and was on transportation committees. Suggested adding the name "Express" to the express routes; add electric bikes on Bike Plan; have Bike and Ride rather than Park and Ride. Paradigm to be revisited because one would still have to drive.
  - Joy Bartlett has ridden buses all over the country and she has a difficult time in Asheville in finding information. Hanna asked as new rider in Asheville where Ms. Bartlett could not locate the information. Joy would like to volunteer for the ambassador program.
  - Bette Jackson rode on the bus with Ms. Bartlett and lives car free. Ms. Jackson stated that Route 13 has had on-time performance problems. Ms. Jackson mentioned that another person called the Transit Center and was told that the bus was "on its way." It is good that the Transit Center gives positive feedback but needs to give accurate information
  - Paul Van Heden – interested in community issues and encourages the public, staff, TC to attending Get There Asheville's upcoming forum.

#### Update from Transit Commission Members Work and New Business:

- Volunteer Day Program (Transit Ambassador Program) at Transit Center:

Hanna stated that Assistant City Attorney, Martha McGlohon will be reviewing the proposal by Hanna. This item will be tabled for November TC meeting.

- **Get There Asheville** – Hanna announced early voting event on 10/30/09 at 5pm at Pritchard Park.
- **Transit System and International Community:** – Josh presented the Transit Commission members a written proposal from Geri Solomon who represents the international community. Mariate asked who would pay for the items listed in the proposal. Hanna mentioned that there are so many issues to deal with at this time. Andrew made a motion to help to deliver immediate opportunity to the community foundation and to help grassroots staff and outreach for the international community. Andrew continued to say that the Transit Commission recognizes Asheville's international community and he respects the proposal regarding frequency and timeliness. Not to dismiss this issue, but there are bigger issues. Josh mentioned that we get lost in the bigger issues. Josh continued to state that the concerns of Geri are significant to recognize. Josh would like to recognize the volunteer segment; minimal staff and money of the proposal. Hanna stated that Geri's proposal was useful and perhaps TC could meet with international staff. Josh stated that Geri is trying to bridge the gap in having information available in another language for the international community. Andrew acknowledges Josh and Geri's interest, but do not want staff business card size with key information available. . Josh indicated that Geri will print the business cards as an approach for the staff to assist the international community foundation. Mariate suggested affixing the cards to the maps with key information. Josh mentioned this would be helpful for the first time riders. Mariate asked why in other languages and not in English. Josh asked the TC members that he will ask Geri for specific information. Hanna stated to have specific and concrete information as to what Geri is requesting. Andrew mentioned that the proposal represents Geri, but not specific problems. Mariate mentioned that some information is not clear and it would be useful to research as to other transit systems have on international communities; and how they deal with these problems. Andrew agrees to have a chance to view the best practice resources. Josh did research other systems pursuing funding for bi-language by reprinting signage/maps; bus cards provide key codes as a temporary gap. Josh will bring other information. Mariate mentioned that it would be better to have maps rather than stickers. Edna suggested that with new schedules/routes would be the best time to incorporate the bi-language information. Josh, will continue to work with Geri. Hanna appreciates and recognizes Josh's hard work in preparing this proposal.

**Transit Master Plan** – to present to Council on October 27, 2009. Mariate stated that during the public comment period approximately 250 comments were received, most were positive. Main concerns were: Going inbound at the entrance of Goodwill, mainly due to most of the patrons are disabled; Black Mountain and Weaverville routes; not going into to the housing complexes; specifically in Pisgah View Apts; will go through Hillcrest b/c cannot turn around. HDR, consultant will be meeting with the Council members next week. Josh asked if Goodwill would be the only change. Mariate stated that Saturdays for Route 12 and stopping Route 4. Josh asked if there were any comments on Saturday removal and Mariate answered no. Even though Grove Park Inn (GPI) is part of the Passport Program, ridership is low. Tom Tomlin is requesting not to have Route 5 to GPI cut, since people work Monday-Saturday and will have to find another way to work; and eventually employees will not ride the bus Monday-Friday because of the cut and lose ridership. Tom mentioned that he sees that 94 to 100 patrons ride Route 5 on Saturdays. Mariate stated in order to get a balance, some routes had to be cut due to operational costs; Route 5 is a not productive route. Mariate answered Tom's question that the employees of GPI are aware that the City is cutting this route. Andrew stated that as TC we should attend Council on 10/27 to support the Transit Master Plan. Hanna encourages TC members to attend. Mariate announced that Transit Master Plan will be presented by HDR consultant and public comment after the consent agenda. After much discussion among the TC members, they passed a resolution to support the Transit Master Plan; 4 in favor and 2 opposed.

- **Transit Commission Presentation Schedule:** Hanna stated that she would like to have someone from the Health Department and Josh will send an email to request a presentation.

### **UPDATE FROM STAFF:**

- **Status of Inter-City Routes:** Mariate announced that there will be a discussion about Route 54 during the next Council Meeting on 10/27/09. Presentation and public hearing on 10/22/09 from 5:30pm to 7pm in the Public Works Building. The main concern is Route 54 to Weaverville in which a proposal will be prepared for Council on 10/27/09 to review funding portions of Route 54. All legal notices have been published and on the website. Hanna will be attending on 10/22/09. Heather Strassberg of MPO/Land of Sky asked if Mariate coordinated this with Land of Sky. Mariate indicated that she is waiting for Council approval before informing the public.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Heather announced an MPO Transit meeting Friday 10/16/09, about projects and requests from NCDOT.
- Edna announced that the ATS is entering the Christmas parade and will have bus with a mountain scene.

### **November 18, 2009 Agenda Items:**

- Implementation plan for Transit Master Plan (Mariate requested to move this agenda item to December for a more extensive plan which will be laid out)
- Volunteer/Ambassador Program
- Consolidation study



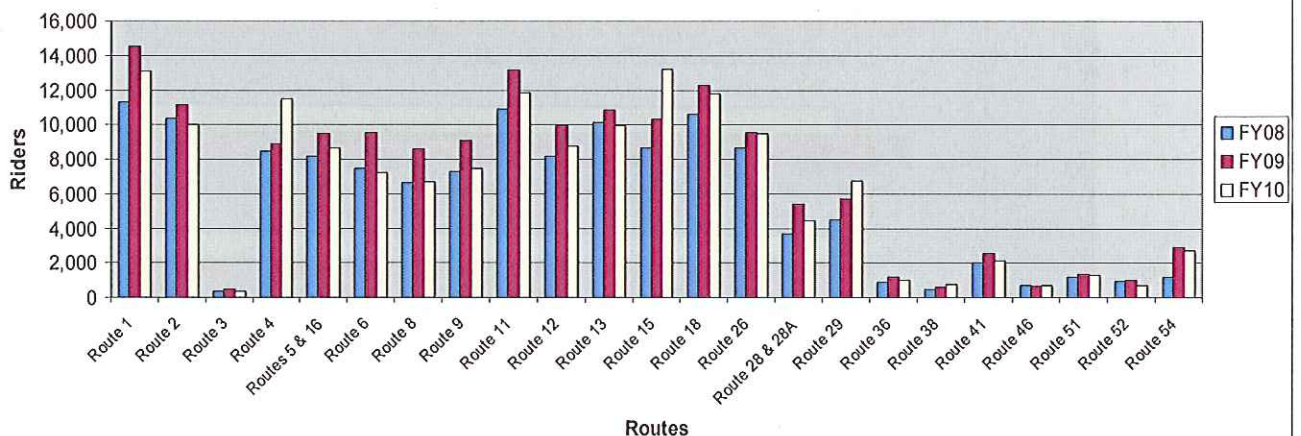
# Route Ridership-October, 2009

## Current Month

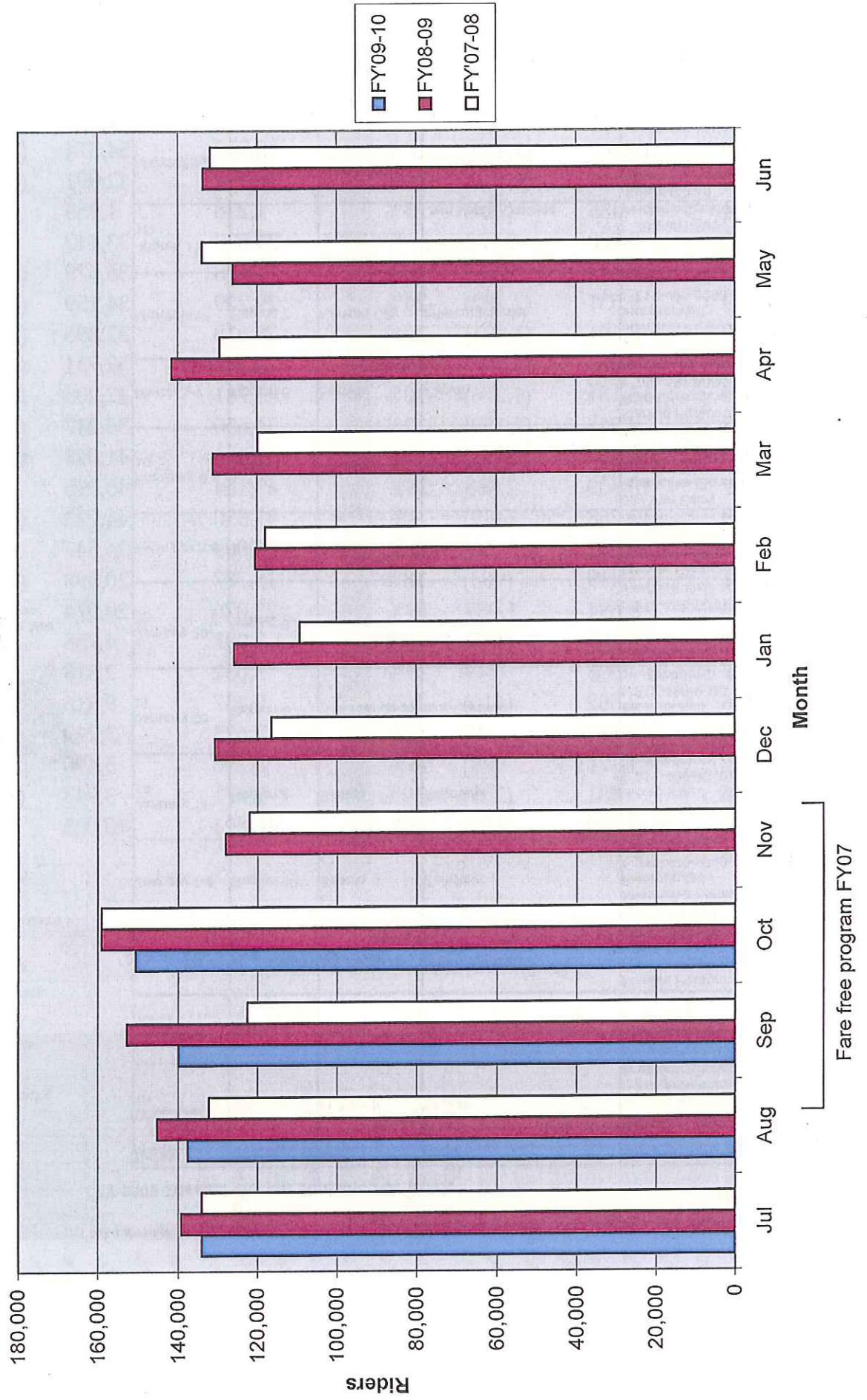
## Fiscal Year to Date

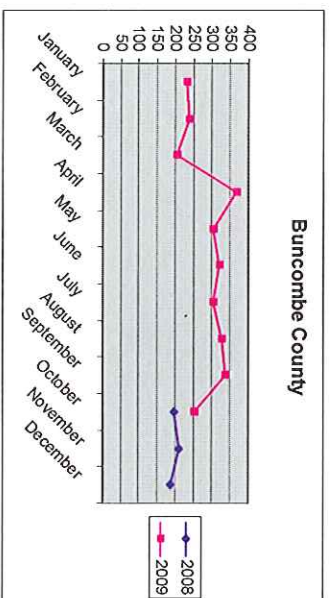
Route	This Year	Last Year	Change	Delta		This Year	Last Year	Change	Delta	
1	13,089	14,507	(1,418)	-10%		50,812	54,374	(3,562)	-7%	
2	10,010	11,117	(1,107)	-10%		38,494	42,991	(4,497)	-10%	
3	364	488	(124)	-25%		1,236	1,955	(719)	-37%	
4	11,472	8,900	2,572	29%		34,830	33,442	1,388	4%	
5 & 16	8,635	9,494	(859)	-9%		34,428	36,679	(2,251)	-6%	
6	7,249	9,531	(2,282)	-24%		29,229	34,159	(4,930)	-14%	
8	6,700	8,601	(1,901)	-22%		26,618	32,895	(6,277)	-19%	
9	7,475	9,062	(1,587)	-18%		29,073	32,731	(3,658)	-11%	
11	11,875	13,151	(1,276)	-10%		43,781	47,205	(3,424)	-7%	
12	8,788	9,947	(1,159)	-12%		34,650	36,247	(1,597)	-4%	
13	9,953	10,852	(899)	-8%		37,583	41,028	(3,445)	-8%	
15	13,197	10,309	2,888	28%		43,154	40,295	2,859	7%	
18	11,819	12,268	(449)	-4%		43,530	44,733	(1,203)	-3%	
26	9,476	9,532	(56)	-1%		36,009	36,547	(538)	-1%	
28&28A	4,451	5,419	(968)	-18%		18,787	20,398	(1,611)	-8%	
29	6,783	5,694	1,089	19%		22,076	20,974	1,102	5%	
36	992	1,167	(175)	-15%		3,997	4,758	(761)	-16%	
38	747	598	149	25%		3,032	2,318	714	31%	
41	2,146	2,562	(416)	-16%		9,337	9,916	(579)	-6%	
46	689	651	38	6%		2,673	3,249	(576)	-18%	
51	1,292	1,371	(79)	-6%		5,296	5,490	(194)	-4%	
52	686	981	(295)	-30%		2,771	3,943	(1,172)	-30%	
54	2,698	2,889	(191)	-7%		10,824	10,033	791	8%	
Total	150,586	159,091	(8,505)							

Route Comparison October FY09-10

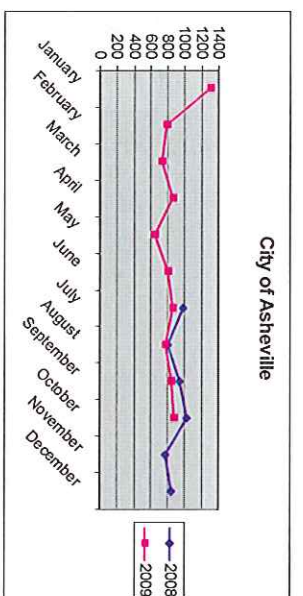


# Ridership Comparison

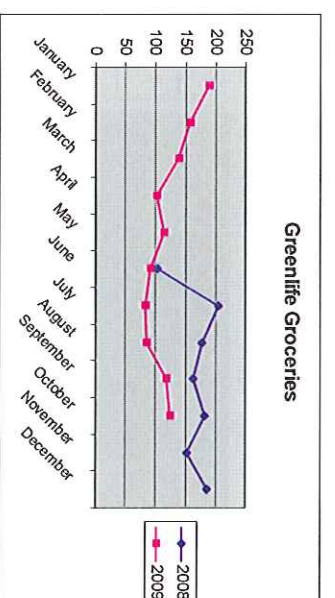




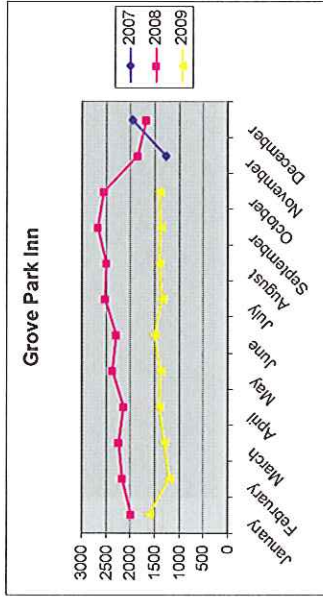
Buncombe County	2008	2009
January		231
February		236
March		204
April		366
May		302
June		319
July		301
August		324
September		334
October		251
November		209
December		187
Year Totals	591	2868
Overall Totals	3459	6327



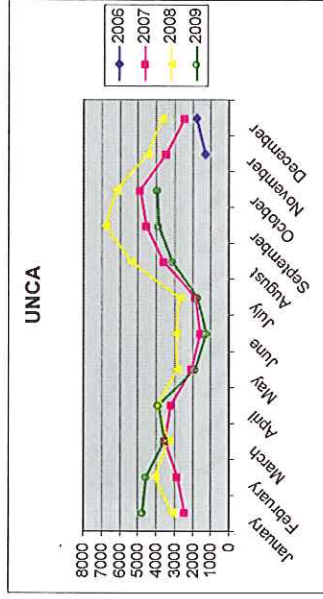
City of Asheville	2008	2009
January		1306
February		779
March		733
April		850
May		643
June		793
July		857
August		774
September		844
October		873
November		770
December		835
Year Totals	5336	8452
Overall Totals	13788	22240



Greenlife	2008	2009
January		188
February		156
March		138
April		101
May		113
June		90
July		82
August		84
September		117
October		125
November		152
December		185
Year Totals	1167	1194
Overall Totals	2361	3555



Grove Park Inn	2007	2008	2009
January		1993	1592
February		2156	1198
March		2225	1305
April		2128	1386
May		2356	1366
June		2298	1509
July		2520	1345
August		2494	1387
September		2659	1376
October		2552	1410
November	1268	1863	
December	1969	1676	
Year Totals	3237	26920	13874
Overall Totals	30157	57077	70951



UNCA	2006	2007	2008	2009
January		2433	3140	4777
February		2860	4041	4562
March		3536	3346	3554
April		3163	3906	3891
May		2010	2870	1803
June		1529	2882	1253
July		1816	2692	1677
August		3611	5336	3118
September		4512	6755	3897
October		4881	6169	3935
November	1285	3452	4444	
December	1754	2443	3649	
Year Totals	3039	36246	49230	32467
Overall Totals		120982		